

Fort Sam Houston National Historic Landmark
Military Post of San Antonio Magazine (Building #2157)
San Antonio
Bexar County
Texas

HABS No. TX-3303-6

HABS
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15-SANT
37F-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Architectural and Engineering Record
National Parks Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
FORT SAM HOUSTON NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

MILITARY POST OF SAN ANTONIO MAGAZINE
(Building #2157)

HABS No. TX-3303-6

Location: On the south side of Cunningham Avenue, Fort Sam Houston,
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Present Owner
and Occupant: U.S. Army

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: This late nineteenth-century, one-room, brick magazine, although isolated in its location on the western boundary of the Post, is compatible in design and materials with other Post buildings erected during the same period. The structure adds to the comprehensiveness of the late nineteenth and early twentieth-century building stock at Fort Sam Houston.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of Erection: April, 1889
2. Architect: Unknown
3. Original and Subsequent Owners: U.S. Army from date of construction to the present
4. Contractor: Unknown
5. Original Plan and Construction: A one-story, one-room structure of yellow brick, rectangular in plan. A gable roof has a ridge line running north-south; front entrance and rear window openings are in the short gable ends. The building was constructed at a cost of \$3,850.
6. Alterations and Additions: The Magazine is now vacant and in poor condition. It is basically unchanged. The front entry door(s) has(ve) been removed.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: This one-room yellow brick magazine built in 1889, displays a significant amount of architectural detail considering its original purpose.

Symmetrical in form, the building has a raised parapet along the front and rear gable ends with dressed limestone coping, denticular brick cornice detail and four stepped buttresses evenly spaced along the east and west sides. Its simple detailing exhibits the concern for aesthetics in military post design during this period -- even for this most utilitarian structure.

2. Condition of Fabric: The condition of the fabric is poor. Presently unused, this building has buckling brick walls and a rotting, structurally unsound, wood floor. The original front door has been removed. Tie rods run along both front and side walls.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all Dimensions: Approximately 15'-6" x 34'-2"; one-room rectangular plan.
2. Foundation: The walls continue approximately one foot below the surface with a wood tongue-and-groove floor on cross beam framing.
3. Wall Construction, Finish and Color: The walls are made of brick, load-bearing wall construction of yellow brick with raked mortar joints. The walls are finished with limestone coping along the front and rear gable ends and stepped buttressing.
4. Structural System, Framing: Brick, load-bearing walls with four buttresses along the east and west walls form the structural system. The walls are approximately 1'-10" thick. (They are recorded as 2' thick on 1940s plans.)
5. Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Bulkheads: Not applicable.
6. Chimneys: Not applicable.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and Doors: Doorway is a narrow three-foot wide opening in the front cent north facade, highlighted with a segmental double rowlock arch above.

Original door(s) has(ve) removed yet metal hinges remain, set on the outside right wall and the inside left wall -- possibly indicating a double door enclosure.

- b. Windows: Small window opening on center south facade 2'-2" wide and 4'-7" high in line with the doorway. Opening is closed off with steel bars and detailed with double rowlock segmental arch detail above. The arched opening has been squared off with wood framing.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, Covering: The roof is a gable roof with slightly raised parapet and limestone coping. Standing-seam metal covers the roof.
- b. Cornice and Eaves: The cornice is highlighted by corbeling detail flaring out slightly at the top. Headers form a denticular design along cornice base.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

- a. First Floor: The first floor is composed of one room, which is approximately 12' wide by 30' long with a vaulted ceiling.

2. Stairways: Not applicable.

3. Flooring: Narrow tongue-and-groove flooring rests on structural cross beams. The floor is in poor condition with rotting floor boards.

4. Wall and Ceiling Finish: The walls on the east and west are vaulted brick. Both the north and south walls are flat.

5. Openings: See the description of the exterior, #7.

D. Site:

- 1. General Setting and Orientation: The Magazine, located at the west end of the Post and set back from the road along the Post property line, is isolated from other Post Development. The Old Alamo Ditch (name taken from an early map of the area) runs directly behind. A small animal cemetery is also found behind the structure with at least five grave sites.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Maps:

Fort Sam Houston Museum, Building #123, San Antonio, Texas. (Early map of Post, c. 1905, with Magazine sited)

B. Bibliography:

Real Property Records, Directorate of Facilities Engineering, Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas.

C. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated:

Correspondence and other miscellaneous files relating to Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas. National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The detailed survey of eighteen (18) architecturally representative structures, and a group of streetscapes, at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas, was undertaken in 1980 by the National Architectural and Engineering Record (NAER) after a comprehensive inventory of the Post was conducted. Funding for the project was made possible through the cooperative efforts of the Department of the Army, Fort Sam Houston, and the San Antonio Conservation Society.

This project was under the general supervision of Kenneth Anderson, Acting Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Architectural and Engineering Record. Sally Tompkins of the NAER staff was project supervisor. Project Historian was Kathryn A. Burns, San Antonio, Texas. Photographic records were provided by David Kaminsky, Roswell, New Mexico.

FORT SAM HOUSTON,

MILITARY POST OF SAN ANTONIO, MAGAZINE

(Fort Sam Houston, Building No. 2157)

Fort Sam Houston National Historic Landmark

S. side of Cunningham Ave.

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ADDENDUM TO

FORT SAM HOUSTON NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

MILITARY POST OF SAN ANTONIO MAGAZINE

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XEROGRAPHIC COPIES OF COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

National Park Service

Department of the Interior

Washington, D.C. 20001